

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

[0001] Applicants representatives Bruce R. Needham and Scott C. Hilton held a telephone interview on February 9, 2009 with Examiner Jacobs and Examiner Blake J. Rubin. Applicants provided a summary of the claimed invention to the Examiners, and a summary of the Applicants understanding of the cited art.

[0002] Applicants further discussed a proposed amendment to Claim 1 relative to the rejection under U.S.C. 35 § 103(a) in view of *Ring*, *Caughey*, and *Multer*. The Examiners suggested amending the online user of Claim 1 to read contact instead of user to distinguish the online user from the user. The Examiners further suggested amending the retrieval module of Claim 1 to more clearly define the contact sources. The Examiners agreed that in view of this amendment to separate the user from the online contacts, that an updated search would be necessary, as *Caughey* does not teach prompting the user, but instead teaches prompting the new contacts. The Examiners also agreed that the proposed amendment stating that the validation module verifies the online contacts with a messaging server distinguishes the claims at issue over the cited art. Upon discussion of an updated search, the Examiners also stated that they would notify the Applicants by telephone of any new references discovered.

[0003] In view of the telephone interview, the Applicants have presently amended the claims at issue based on the suggested amendments from the Examiners and the discussed proposed amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that as amended the claims at issue overcome the cited art.